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10 April 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: Ms. Cynthia Hanson
Country Desk Officer for Swaziland

FROM:
Deputy Chief, Operations Group, FBIS

SUBJECT: Proposed FBIS Bureau in Swaziland

1. The proposed FBIS bureau in Swaziland is designed to improve political and economic reporting on Southern Africa in response to the needs of U. S. foreign affairs analysts and policymakers. FBIS has a bureau in Ivory Coast, which covers most of West Africa, and the BBC, with which we have a reciprocal agreement to share our products, maintains monitoring operations in Kenya (for East Africa and the Horn) and in Malawi, the latter being a small operation with restricted operating hours and communications. The product of the BBC Malawi operation, while useful, does not fully meet the requirements of U.S. consumers concerned with Southern African affairs.

2. The proposed Swaziland bureau would have the capability to monitor public radio and press agency transmissions, newspapers and journals of Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. English, Portuguese, Afrikaans, French and Malagasy material would be covered.

3. The bureau would be staffed by Americans and foreign nationals. To the extent possible, foreign nationals would be hired locally, but in instances where linguistic or technical capabilities are not available locally some employees would have to be recruited from outside Swaziland.

4. The bureau would operate seven days a week with day and evening shifts.

5. FBIS' affiliation with CIA is a matter of public record and was made known to Deputy Prime Minister Nsibandze in March 1979. FBIS does not publicize its affiliation. FBIS now operates in countries, including Ivory Coast, Cyprus and Panama.

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